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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,591	08/19/2003	Takaaki Isshiki	0020-5166P	2938

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EXAMINER

THALER, MICHAEL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3731

DATE MAILED: 08/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/642,591

Applicant(s)

ISSHIKI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Thaler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/03&3.9.11/05.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The terms "preferably" and "more preferably" in lines 3 and 4 make the claim indefinite since it is unclear which diameter range is claimed.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khosravi (6,361,546) in view of Brooks et al. (6,346,116). Khosravi discloses sheath 52 being closed at the proximal end (by the narrow proximal region described in col. 5, lines 19-25), shaft 12 (which is flexible in the embodiment described in col. 4, lines 13-16 due to the articulations therein), thrombus capture member 14, 16 comprising a plurality

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of wires 24 forming a frame and having a configuration swollen in the middle portion and mounted slidably on shaft 12 at the distal end but fixed on the shaft at the proximal end thereof (col. 4, lines 24-27). Khosravi fails to disclose the filter frame wires 24 as being spiral and crossed with one another. However, Brooks et al. teach that filter frame wires 56 for supporting an endovascular filter membrane should be spiral and crossed with one another (col. 4, lines 37-43) apparently in order to obtain the advantage of better supporting the filter membrane around its circumference. It would have been obvious to make the Khosravi filter frame wires 24 spiral and crossed with one another so that it too would have this advantage. As to claim 4, Khosravi fails to disclose a hemostatic valve. However, it is old and well known to use hemostatic valve in surgical devices in order to obtain the advantage of preventing blood loss. It would have been obvious to include a hemostatic valve in the Khosravi device so that it too would have this advantage. The proximal portion of shaft 12 of Khosravi protrudes from the sheath 52 when the shaft 12 is inserted therein as described in col. 5, lines 51-56.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khosravi (6,361,546) in view of Brooks et al. (6,346,116) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of

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Rosenbluth (WO 99/56801). As to claim 5, Khosravi fails to disclose a side hole and second lumen in the sheath. However, Rosenbluth teaches that a sheath 11''' for an intravascular filter should include a side hole 310 and second lumen 309 in order to obtain the advantage of permitting rapid exchange of the sheath (page 18, lines 13-22). It would have been obvious to include a side hole and second lumen in the Khosravi sheath so that it too would have this advantage. As to claim 6, Khosravi fails to disclose a side infusion tube. However, Rosenbluth teaches that a sheath 11 for an intravascular filter should include a side infusion port 15 attached thereto in order to obtain the advantage of permitting injection of contrast medium into the vessel (page 15, lines 15-24). It would have been obvious to include a side infusion port in the Khosravi device so that it too would have this advantage.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Thaler whose telephone number is (571)272-4704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anhtuan T. Nguyen can

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be reached on (571)272-4963. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)273-8300.

mht
7/28/06

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michael Thaler', written in a cursive style.

MICHAEL THALER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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